

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 205476

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, EPAP, RP

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: BRAHMAN CATTLE SALE
CONTROVERSY

REFS: A. MANILA 50, JAN. 3, 1975, B. MANILA 1852 FEB. 11,
1975

1. BOSTON OFFICE OF SENATOR KENNEDY HAS CONTACTED DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF MICHELSON LIVESTOCK INTERNATIONAL INC., 475 TURNPIKE STREET, SOUTH EASTON, MASS., WHICH AS INDICATED REFTELS WAS ONE OF PARTIES INVOLVED IN MID-1974 CONTROVERSIAL IMPORTATION OF CATTLE INTO PHILIPPINES.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM MICHELSON, RELAYED THROUGH SENATOR'S OFFICE, GOP INTENDS ON AUGUST 20 TO AUCTION FOR SLAUGHTER CATTLE WHICH MICHELSON CONTENTS BELONG TO IT. MICHELSON INTERESTED IN HAVING SCHEDULED AUCTION CANCELLED AND HAVING GOP ISSUE DESIGNATION OF CATTLE AS BREEDING STOCK WHICH MICHELSON CLAIMS THEY ARE.

3. MICHELSON VERSION OF ENTIRE EPISODE IS THAT THEY
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SHIPPED VIA AIR IN MID-1874 31 BRAHMAN BULLS AND 96

BRAHMAN HEIFERS, WHICH THEY STATE WERE SO CERTIFIED ON USDA HEALTH CERTIFICATE, CONSIGNED FOR SALE TO MADJAPAHIT CATTLE CORPORATION, MANILA, WHOSE PRESIDENT IS RASCID LUCMAN. GOP "CONFISCATED" CATTLE PENDING PAYMENT OF DUTY OF APPROXIMATELY DOLS 20,000 ON GROUNDS THEY NOT BREEDING STOCK. MICHELSON MAINTAINS BULLS WERE ACCOMPANIED BY REGISTRATION PAPERS ISSUED BY AMERICAN BRAHMAN ASSOCIATION AND THAT, WHILE HEIFERS NOT ACCOMPANIED BY PAPERS, THEY ALSO WERE BREEDING STOCK. ACCORDING MICHELSON MADJAPAHIT NEVER PAID FOR CATTLE BECAUSE ANTICIPATED LOAN FROM PDB NIXED BY GENERAL VER ON GROUNDS LUCMAN A SECURITY RISK. MICHELSON THEREFORE RETAINS LIEN ON CATTLE AND STATES IT STANDS LOSE CONSIDERABLE SUM.

4. IN VIEW BACKGROUND THIS CASE, EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO EXAMINE PRESENT STATUS OF CASE, RENDER SUCH ASSISTANCE AS EMBASSY CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE, AND REPORT SOONEST. MICHELSON AGENT IN PHILIPPINES IS MR. J. D. QUIRINO, ISABELLA APARTMENTS, CEBU CITY, TELEPHONE 72383.

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